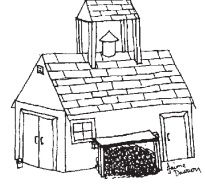


THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



Volume 23, Number 1

Guilford, Vermont

February 2017 Issue

TOWN MEETING EDITION

Guilford's Grange Hall

The journey continues: saving and growing a community resource

BY BOBBIE FITCH HAUMANN

Sometimes, returning to our roots can have some surprising outcomes. I am a native of Guilford, yet I lived away for many years, returning only in late 1998 after the death of my father. Coming back here has fulfilled a longed-for desire, which has led to some opportunities I never quite imagined would come true.

Although I have spent over 40 years as a journalist and science writer/editor, being home again has given me a gift of writing my thoughts down in poetry form. And sharing them with friends has built the confidence to share them with a wider audience—because I have something to say that sometimes brings comfort, or joy, or just the pleasure of words that tickle the senses.

Meanwhile, I have the opportunity to carry on a vision embarked by my Grandparents (and parents) to save a

community resource for the good of all our townspeople and the wider region. I am proud to say that I am a part of the effort to save Guilford's Grange Hall and expand its use for the Guilford community for the long term, while also allowing the Broad Brook Grange organization to continue its mission and work.

This refers to the work in progress establishing a ground-works not-for-profit charitable organization, the Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC), to take on the monumental goal of redeveloping our Grange Hall as a community center for all sorts of activities, from educational programs, to a site for Guilford recreational activities, for youth programs, theatre and other cultural events. The “monumental” aspect of this is the economic investment that will be needed to bring this invaluable building up to the safety and public access standards required. Recently, the BBCC achieved

an important hurdle—that of gaining its not-for-profit charitable 501 (c) 3 status, allowing donations to the organization to be tax deductible for donors. The current status of the overall project is in the feasibility phase, to detail all that will be needed to turn this community asset into a valuable center for our town.

And so, I have published “A Sense of Home,” my first book of poetry capturing what it is like to live in Guilford in the midst of world turmoil. The net proceeds are earmarked for the BBCC as it embarks on raising the funds needed for this huge—but very worthwhile—undertaking. I am sharing the introduction to this book in the hope that you will want to purchase a copy, knowing that the proceeds will go toward a valuable asset for our community. For more information, contact bfhaumann@myfairpoint.net.

AN INTRODUCTION

“It’s going out for a little excursion from the place where you really belong that’s fun.
But you have to have the place where you really belong.”

--Dorothy Canfield Fisher, *Tourists Accommodated*, Harcourt, Brace & Company, NY, 1934

continued p3

Thank You!!

In response to our request for donations, we received 36 contributions. Thank you so much!

We truly appreciate your generosity and support of our community newspaper.

The Guilford Gazette

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The *Guilford Gazette* was established in 1995 and was published by students at Guilford Central School, with support from the Town of Guilford, and is now published under the auspices of the Guilford Free Library. We publish four issues per year: November, February, May and August.

The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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The Guilford Gazette is an all-volunteer newspaper that comes out four times a year. That's a big commitment for the four or five regulars on the staff, who take care of editing, production, advertising, printing and mailing it to every Guilford household. Here's how you can help:

- Prepare the printed newspaper for mailing by helping us with labels. If enough people show up, this only takes a few hours and it's a chance to socialize and get a sneak preview of the paper! Contact Cathi Wilken at the library [257-4603] to find out how you can help.

- Send in articles. This is a chance to let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford! Or perhaps you'd like to share a reminiscence, poem, or story with your fellow Guilfordites. Just limit your entry to no more than 500 words. You can submit articles to the Gazette by email to gazette@guilfordfree.org, or you can send a printed copy to Susan Bonthron (108 S. Belden Hill Rd., Guilford, VT 05301), or Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library (4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301). Please DO pay attention to deadlines!

- Join our staff. If you have an interest in becoming a staff member who can help with editing, advertising or production, we'd love you to join us at our "second Thursday of the month" meetings at 9AM at the Guilford Country Store. Meetings start on time and last no more than one hour.

- Donate. The Gazette always welcomes donations of any size. They help pay for postage and printing. Checks made out to The Guilford Gazette should be sent to Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, 05301.

Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our town newspaper alive and thriving!

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p1 cont

Serendipity is such a wonderful word, bringing parcels of surprises over a lifetime of living. The latest, for me, was being introduced to the Dorothy Canfield Fisher play Tourists Accommodated when it was enacted by Guilford Center Stage at Broad Brook Grange in Guilford, Vermont, in October 2015. Belonging—having the sense of place and home—is very dear to me.

The roots of my life's journey started on a small hill farm in southern Vermont where my paternal grandfather and grandmother settled and where my beloved

father was born—and where I spent my childhood. The path subsequently took me to college at the edge of a seaside park on the north side of Long Island Sound, a stint on a daily newspaper in Connecticut, and a three-year adventure with Peace Corps in the jungles of Ecuador. Then, back to the States for a complex journalism career, meeting and making lifetime friends who may not hear from me for decades but the bonds are still there.

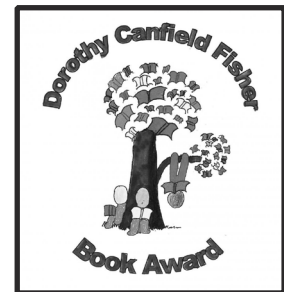
Along the way, I met a mate, we raised two children, we separated and went different paths, lost one of our sons as an adult,

gained three grandchildren...and in the process I found myself where I have always belonged: on the same small hill farm in southern Vermont where I began.

I am home.

May you feel a sense of place—and belonging—as you read the poems I share with you.

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Thinking About Summer

BY CATHI WILKEN

Curled up in front of the fire on a snowy December afternoon, I can't think of anything but camp. That's because pictures of last year's three summer programs keep popping up on my computer at home and on all the macs at the library. Many of them are on the web page too, <http://www.guilfordfreelibraryvt.org/summer-camp-2016>

The emphasis of Fuel Your Engine, a camp for younger children, was on connecting with our environment through gardening, cooking and creating art with materials found in nature. It was SO hot that we spent much of our time in the stream behind the library, both at the new play space and at the Weeks' trail. Ten children and two helpers (sometimes three) attended during the third week of July. Hanna

Jenkins led the adventures. Photos were included in the August issue of the Gazette.

On Your Mark, Get Set...Read, was held during the last week of July. This camp for 2nd-5th graders focused on outdoor adventures, art and music, and "stuff like that". It was again so hot that 'stuff like that' consisted mostly of cooling off in the water. Andy Loughney, returning for his third year, brought along his guitar. He was assisted by Dylan Young. Ten children attended. Photos were included in the August issue of the Gazette.

Stage and Stream was a new, full-day camp for thirteen 5th-8th graders. The day began, after breakfast, with theatre games and workshops, improv, and sketches on the stage at the Grange. Afternoons provided plenty of outdoor time in the woods and stream with

opportunities for journaling, sketching, and writing. The instructors were New England Youth Theatre "alumni" home from college for the summer, who taught similar classes at NEYT. Library staff and parent volunteers were part of the team. Here are some photos from Stage and Stream, held in the third week of August.

We're beginning to plan the summer camps already! The theme this year, Build A Better World, is provoking a million ideas, but be sure that activities will include lots of time in the woods and stream behind the library. Week 1 will be July 17-21, Week 2 will be July 24-28, and Stage and Stream (5th-8th grades) will be August 14-18. Save the date. More information coming soon.

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Act 46 - Why it Matters to Guilford

BY THE GUILFORD SCHOOL BOARD

Act 46 continues to be a primary focus of the Guilford Town School Board. We are clearly in the midst of a historic change in the public education system. The State of Vermont faces some serious and unique challenges regarding funding and equality of education. Guilford is no exception – in fact, because of its size, it exemplifies them. There is an extraordinary amount of information to be shared regarding Act 46, but for the purpose of this article, we will focus mostly on why we are engaged in this process and its importance to the long-term sustainability of the school we all love.

Guilford, like the rest of the state, has experienced a significant decline in enrollment over the past ten years. While the Board works hard to contain costs and minimize increases in spending, the sole impact of declining enrollment is severe. Even if school spending remains the same, the town is facing an increase in tax rates due to the increase in our cost per student. It would take significant budget cuts to avoid this, ones that our students cannot afford. There are already many programs we are unable to implement at our school, that are available in other schools with larger student populations. School funding formulas are set up to spread the cost of education over the population of the students in the school. As an independent district, Guilford's student enrollment is around 100 students. As a unified district, student enrollment would be approximately 2,500 students. Program costs spread over the

population of a small single district will have a significantly greater impact on the tax rate than if spread over a much larger unified district.

One of the biggest impacts to our upcoming budget is the tuition of our 7th and 8th-grade students to the Brattleboro Area Middle School. Under the original contract there was a significant discount in tuition, and an additional cap based on student enrollment; however, this agreement ends at the end of the 2017 school year. If forced to pay an uncapped, full tuition rate, Guilford could see an increase of 62% to this budget line item – an impact of over \$185,000. Under a unified district, this tuition arrangement is eliminated entirely. We were very fortunate to obtain a one-year transition arrangement with the BUHS/BAMS Board for 2017/2018 school year, which extended us a continued discount. If our district remains unmerged next year, we will face this same challenge again.

Guilford Central School (GCS), like many other small schools, is facing some challenging times. While there are some uncertainties regarding unification, it offers our school sustainability through cost sharing, which in turn can provide us with resources and opportunities that may otherwise be cost prohibitive. It levels the playing field between smaller schools and larger schools, expands on existing efficiencies within our SU, and more easily allows us to implement best practices to all of our member schools. Without unification, we fear continued declining enrollment and increasing cost per student, could result in a

devastating financial impact.

Although controversial, Act 46 is a law, which we must comply with before 2018, or the state will impose it on us. The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Act 46 Study Committee has drafted proposed Articles of Agreement, which outline how a unification structure could be implemented in our district. These Articles contain some very specific language pertaining to issues that are important to our schools and our communities. Issues such as school closure, local input and involvement, and preservation of unique school cultures and identities. One of the major benefits to responding to Act 46 now is that we can play a role in determining our own destiny. If we wait and let the State determine our fate, we lose that opportunity, and most likely the unique language that has been built into the Articles of Agreement. We need to take advantage of the opportunity we have to play an active role in structuring our district under Act 46.

The law requires all member towns of the newly formed district operate under the same structure – therefore, schools that offer school choice cannot unify with schools that do not. The town of Vernon has requested they be allowed to leave the WSESU so that they can pursue options for complying with Act 46 that would allow them to keep school choice. A vote took place on 12/13 to allow Vernon to leave the SU; however, it required an affirmative

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Act 46 cont

vote from all other member districts, and the town of Dummerston did not vote affirmative. A petition for re-vote was filed and a re-vote will occur on 2/21. If Dummerston's vote NOT to allow Vernon to withdraw from the SU is upheld, the WSESU Act 46 Study Committee will need to develop a new path to compliance. If the re-vote results in an affirmative vote to release Vernon, current plans to hold a vote for unification between Brattleboro, Vernon, Putney and Dummerston will continue. The unifi-

cation vote, on a day yet to be determined, requires the same unanimous results as did the vote to release Vernon from the SU.

The Guilford School Board recognizes the extreme levels of uncertainty and skepticism surrounding this very complex issue. We had the same uncertainty and skepticism at the beginning of this now 14-month investigation into the law. Over this time, we have extensively studied the impact of the proposed Articles of Agreement to our school and our students. Our #1 objective is to do what is best, and what is needed,

to preserve our school and continue to provide the best education to our students. We strongly urge members of the community to attend our informational meetings, to ask us the hard questions, and to be open minded in your deliberations. The Guilford School Board unanimously supports the adoption of the proposed Articles of Agreement and the implementation of a unified district under Act 46.

Act 46 Merger - Another Opinion

BY NANCY DETRA

ACT 46 was designed to save taxpayer money and to bring greater educational opportunity to all of our students. Both goals are worthy ones. We would all like to see our tax bills reduced, and to think that our children are getting the best possible education.

Act 46 suggests that there might be a number of ways that these goals might be realized, and indeed that different schools might need to follow different paths to achieve these goals. However, the Act promotes one particular way—merging school districts—which it calls the “preferred model.” It is this model that the WSESU's Study Committee is focusing on, really to the exclusion of other possibilities.

It is this single-minded determination to consolidate districts that has an

increasing number of people concerned about, some passionately against, a district merger. If we do merge our schools in Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford and Putney we will have taken the voice of the individual smaller communities out of the equation. We would be changing our Town Meetings forever. Our school directors have worked hard to craft a budget that will support our students well at the lowest possible cost. At Town Meeting townspeople get to have a look at this budget, as well as that of the town. We ask questions. Not everyone is at Town Meeting of course, but those who come are given the opportunity to have a conversation about how things are going at our school.

If there were a merger we would have at best an “information session” about the school at Town Meeting. The budget itself

would be crafted by a nine-member “super union” board, of which only one member would represent Guilford. It would then be voted on in an Australian ballot at a union meeting.

Is a merger, and a weakening of the traditions of our Town Meeting, necessary to achieve the stated goals of Act 46? If we do merge, no one has yet proven that we will enjoy some economy of scale. Indeed, in some regions of Vermont, where mergers have already taken place, there has not proven to be savings, beyond the incentives included in Act 46, which last only a few years, and in the end come out of all of our pockets through state taxes anyway. And the merger would certainly necessitate more staff in the Central Office. One argument for savings coming with

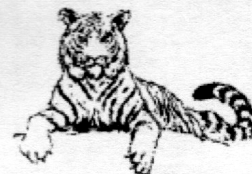
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Another Opinion cont

a merger is that we could order supplies (everything from pencils to gravel) in larger quantities, but can't we do that without merging? Can't we share materials and staff in creative ways without doing away with our local school boards (which, by the way, work very hard for very little pay)?

And what about greater and more equitable opportunities for our students? Surely the principals and teachers in our small elementary schools struggle at the ground level to provide the experience needed by our small but diverse student populations. There are many programs that might serve Guilford students well that we don't currently have, but we also have programs that do a tremendous job of giving meaning to our students' time in school, notably, and ironically, our focus on Guilford's history, traditions, and geography—our "place-based" programs. In the words of Rick Gordon, director of the Compass School, "Educational programs are not just about titles or topics—the quality of a program is dependent on high quality educators with a passion for that subject... It is much easier (and more equal) to eliminate a school's special program than it is to try to find skilled educators to champion some other school's program at all the other district schools."

Guilford residents have wanted to add a pre-school program. According to our school board, which is strongly in favor of the union merger, adding such a program would be "cost prohibitive"

without the merger. But where is the data to support this opinion? There is already a group in Guilford that is studying how to provide a pre-school in our town. We need to support their efforts to study the cost and possible scope of such a program before we jump to the conclusion that because it's bigger it will cost us less.

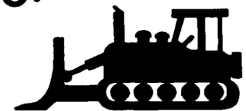
Merging our unique small schools without more study and without at least considering other options for achieving Act 46's goals is not, in my opinion, a good choice. The law as it stands gives us until 2019 to come up with a plan. And there is, even now, state legislation being drafted to "fix" some aspects of Act 46. Senator Kitchel of Caledonia has drafted a proposal that would "require the State Board of Education to evaluate proposals for alternative governance structures on a case-by-case basis and, ... to extend the time frames for school district consolidation and associated dates by one year."

Some say that Act 46 is the law, and that if we don't vote "yes" to this merger now, the state will impose a "plan" on us in 2019. But that actually gives us nearly two years, three if Sen. Kitchel's proposal is passed. We need to take another look at whether the "preferred model" will in fact achieve Act 46's goals for our schools. Indeed, one possibility for how Act 46 would "achieve its goals" would be to close small schools (like Guilford) and send our kids to schools elsewhere. The closure of our school would be detrimental to our sense of community, and probably to our property values as well. The decision would

be made by a nine-member union-wide board on which only one person would necessarily be a Guilford citizen. The school itself would become the property of the union.

A growing number of people have been studying alternatives to a merger. For some very informative articles on how a merger may affect our small towns, go to www.vtschoolsrock.org, www.infoact46.org, or dummerston.com and look for Views of Dummerston in the right-hand column.

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DCF Books Are Back in 2016-17

BY MARISA DOWNING, 6th GRADE

Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) is back in action! The schools in the state of Vermont participate every year in this program that recognizes excellence in new children's literature, from fantasy to historical fiction. If you read at least five of the DCF books, you get a celebration in March and the chance to vote on what book you liked best. I interviewed Ms. Jody Hauser, our school librarian, to find out more. Did you know that DCF has been going on since 1957, but our school has been doing it for over five years?

DCF was named after Dorothy Can-

field Fisher, who was the first woman to serve on the Board of Education in the state of Vermont. Dorothy was an author of many novels such as *The Bent Twig*, *The Montessori Mother*, and *Home Fires in France*. Dorothy was also a dedicated mother of two children, Sally and James. Sally wrote books like her mother, and James was a surgeon and captain in World War II. Dorothy was also an activist and a humanitarian. Something that she loved to say was, "Those who love deeply never grow old, but they die young."

You might be wondering how DCF works.

Each spring, a committee of eight adults from the Vermont Department of Libraries selects a master list of 30 books. Then, Ms. Hauser goes out and buys the books that are appropriate for the students at this school. Some of the books this year are *Rollergirl*, *A Night Divided*, *Circus Marandas*, *The Thing About Jellyfish*, and *Waiting for Unicorns*. If you are a Guilford Central School student or staff member, then you should really start reading.

New Teacher in 5th Grade

BY MICHAEL WASSERLEIN, 6th GRADE

Every morning the 5th grade students greet one of the new faces at GCS, and that is Ms. Julie Erickson. While Ms. Emily Hartz takes the year off to do some other things, Ms. Erickson is the 5th grade teacher. Ms. Erickson is a great teacher and the students really seem to like her. They love the Reading Street text books, playing games on their Chromebooks and spending time in the woods. Their favourite activity is reading buddies, when they have a first grade buddy that they read to for about 45 minutes. Ms. Erickson's students say that she likes to make learning fun for

the whole class.

Ms. Erickson has done many different things before coming to Guilford Central School. She worked as a long term sub for the 6th grade at Leverett Elementary School last year, which is not too far away from here in Massachusetts. She got her undergraduate degree at Middlebury College and her master's degree at Antioch New England Graduate School. She has lived in many different places around the U.S, like Colrain, Washington D.C, Middlebury, and Greenfield. In her free time, she likes to ride bikes and write, and in the winter she likes to knit and ski.

Ms. Erickson likes knowing how kids learn and how they interact with the work they are given. She likes to know how to help as well, so kids are happy all through the school year. Every once in a while she can't help kids, and then the kids aren't happy, and this is a challenge for her as a teacher.

Emmet Hoyer, a 5th grader in her class, says, "I really like how she's open to new ideas and how she tries to make everyone comfortable in the classroom." GCS is happy to have her here this year!



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Mr. Damon: The Greatest Hit

BY GARRET BARRY-STOUGHTON

Mr. Damon, our music teacher, has always wanted to teach music. "In 7th grade, I found out I could study music in college." He always wanted to know everything music-related, and to this day still wants to. His favorite composed piece of music is "The Rite Of Spring" by Igor Stravinsky. His first assignment in college was just to listen to it.

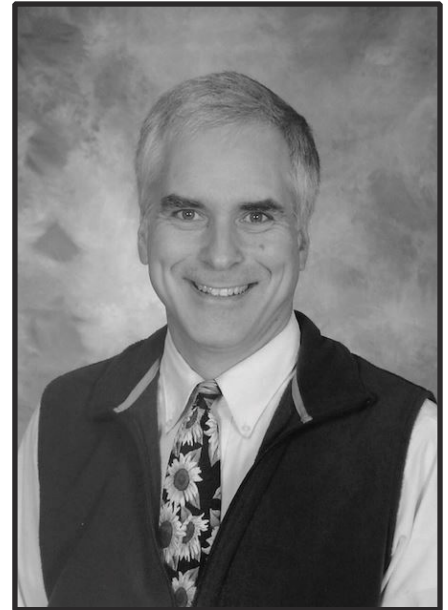
Mr. Damon has an interesting background. He lives in Gill, Massachusetts with his wife and son. His favorite rock song still remains unknown, but we hope he will share it with us by the end of the year. Mr. Damon has been teaching since 1993, twenty-four years of trial and error! When asked how many music teaching jobs he had, he gave me a long list of schools. At Belchertown, he taught third and fourth grade general music. The original music teacher at Belchertown took a maternity leave to stay home with her toddler, who is now grown up and also teaches music.

Mr. Damon explained that he loves being a music teacher. Some have been told that he gets very excited when something new comes up, as in a new composer, a new song or even a new dance. "I love sharing the newness with my students, their families, and the entire community. I especially love getting to work with my students throughout their schooling. I will always remember a student by first sight," he said. "Garret will always be a fourth grader to me," he said when asked. "Many years from now, when he returns to GCS with his loving family and a career which makes him happy, I will still see him as a fourth grader."

When asked what he likes the least about being a music teacher, he told me, "I only get to work with my students for 45-minute increments. I would love to delve into aspects of music, but can only scratch the surface." He told me something about one of his practices. "In one ensemble, I was in rehearsal from 9:00 am to midnight. That

was excessive!"

Kids like Mr. Damon because he is funny, serious, and overall awesome, and we hope he stays here for a long time.



Mr. Damon

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Who Is Ms. Quimby?

BY ALEX BAKER, 6TH GRADE

We might think that we know mountains and hills, but Lauren Quimby knows way more than we do, because she lived in Colorado before she moved to Vermont. I have learned a lot about Lauren Quimby and how she started a new life in Guilford as a teacher.

When Lauren Quimby decided to come to Vermont, she drove across the whole entire country. She wanted to be a teacher for a great school and that is Guilford Central School. Her classroom is sunny and you get a perfect view of the winter wonderland of snow. It is beautiful to work there. She told me that her first thoughts on the first day of school were that it was coming together so nicely and preparing was hard.

Ms. Quimby worked at Telluride Intermediate School in Colorado as a teacher. In the summer of 2016, she moved to Ver-

mont. At her new house, she plays with her dog, she hikes, and has lots of fun with her class, the third grade.

When she came to Guilford, she noticed that we did Farm to School. She said to me she loves it, and she did it in Colorado. She was amazed with our school and how we run it. Ms. Quimby is very special to the kids of third grade. They hope she will stay many years. They say she is the best teacher they ever had at their time at Guilford School. The kids in Ms. Quimby's class love her. The kids said that they love her teaching math and literacy and they also say that Ms. Quimby is special to them.

In conclusion, Ms. Quimby is amazing and now you know what a great teacher she is. It was fun to work with Ms. Quimby and her students to learn about her.

GCS Primary News

BY BREA TKACZYK, GCS 6TH GRADE

It's already halfway through the year and we are still working hard. There is no doubt we 6th graders are all ready for next year and harder work. I spoke with the teachers of the primary wing and it is clear things are flowing.

Kindergarten: In Kindergarten they just compared different stories of the gingerbread man and made gingerbread houses and puppets! In the future they are going to work on scenes of the body (sight, smell, etc). They are very excited to work on weather and can't wait for their very first winter sports! Starting after they got back from Thanksgiving break until they go to Christmas break, they worked

with a nutritionist and I heard that was a lot of fun. On December 8th, they went to the Brattleboro Co-op to do a senses walk, doing things like smelling herbs and spices and feeling grains. The tradition of going to the Thompson House once a month to sing to the elders is still going on and they enjoy that. So I guess the year hasn't been as scary as it seems before you're actually in it.

First Grade: In October the first graders went to their teacher, Ms. Karyn Tyler's house, to harvest pumpkins and carve them. They also, like third grade, got to accompany Mr. Damon to the Putney School and later this year they hope to go to BEEC to grow food. They just finished up

a fun nutrition unit with UVM extensions. Every week they learn about a yummy treat and then make it. They have made everything from fried rice to chocolate yogurt mousse. In math for most of the year they have been working with numbers from one to ten. They focus on efficient

strategies on how to add and subtract.

Second Grade: Second grade has gotten four new students in seven weeks! "That's by far a new record for new students," said Kathleen Lapan, the second grade teacher. In class currently, they are learning about the states of matter. They worked in partners to develop a plan to see how fast they could melt a cube of ice. They recently went on a fun field trip to BEEC to go on a hike and learn about rocks.

Third Grade: Right now in third grade they are working on a bird unit and the students are really having fun with it. They talked about birds during science and they read about them during reading time and they hopefully want to start writing about them. Teacher Ms. Quimby said it has been exciting for her to watch them set their purpose for reading and to read for new information. They are planning to write an essay about birds and their adaptations. In math, they are jumping into multiplication and division, so they will be working with math facts a lot. They also went to BEEC with Joan Carey to look at bird habitats. They went with Mr. Damon to the Putney School to be part of their all school sing.



Primary Teachers

Karyn Tyler, Lauren Quimby, Karen Duggan & Kathy Lapan



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Upper Grade Classroom News at GCS

BY MELANIE ST. JOHN, GCS 6TH GRADE

It is more than halfway through the year so far and the upper grades at Guilford Central School have been working hard. They have been multiplying larger numbers, working through hard math, talking about cells and so much more! I can tell this is already a fun year and I think it will continue to be one all year long at GCS.

4th Grade: The 4th graders have been doing exciting things this year! They have been using place value charts and multiplying larger numbers in math. They created collage scenes of a moment in their lives, which sounds like fun to me. The biggest thing they have been working on is how people work together. They are writing three events about working together: coal miner strikes (1920-1930s),

the Chipko Movement to protect trees in India, and how kids in Venezuela built a park. In the future they are planning on getting a compost worm bin as well.

5th Grade: As you might know there is a new teacher in the 5th grade, her name is Ms. Erikson. She has been doing a lot with her class like making cards for the holidays. They also have been working hard through math adding and subtracting time and that has been challenging sometimes. She has been reading a novel to the class as well.

6th Grade: There has been so much going on with the 6th grade! The class has just published a book, with the help of Linda Lembke and the name of it is Week's Forest Florilegium. It was made with water color paintings of plants from the Week's Forest

that they have been working on for so long. They also built their first fire in Week's Forest so they were dressing warmer and working harder to prepare for the winter. Back in the classroom the 6th grade will start to talk about cells and using microscopes. Very soon they will read a book called Lyddie about the Industrial Revolution. They will do work about the book and go on a field trip soon after they finish the book.

The year has been flying by fast, but GCS upper grades have been keeping up with it. They have continuously been working hard throughout the year, and they are going to keep doing that until the year is over. It is going to be exciting to hear how the upper grades are going to end their 2016-2017 year at GCS.



Linda Lembke works with GCS 6th Graders on Weeks Forest Florilegium book project



6th grade botanists in the Weeks Forest

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Crazy Sock Day - A Celebration of Our Differences

BY BROOKE WHELAN

Visitors to GCS last spring might have noticed people wearing bright, colorful, wacky socks. What was going on? It was Crazy Sock Day! What is that, they might also ask? Well, it is a day where we celebrate people's differences, especially people with Down syndrome. Crazy Sock Day is celebrated on March 21st, or 3/21, because individuals with Down syndrome have 3 of the 21st chromosome. For that reason, it is considered World Down Syndrome Day. There is one extraordinary kid in our school who has Down syndrome. His name is Nate.

What is Down syndrome? There are trillions of cells in the human body. Inside these cells there are these things called chromosomes. Most people have 46 chromosomes in each of their cells. People with Down syndrome have 47, and because of that they may look and learn differently.

Who is Nate? Nate is just like any other second grader in Guilford Central School. He loves to listen to music and to dance. His favorite song is "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars. Nate is an excellent reader, too! He likes to make connections with people and to be silly. His mother and father are grateful that Nate is able to attend our school.


The challenging part about having a Down syndrome kid is that the world isn't always understanding about differences. His mother said, "He needs champions and friends just like any other kid."

Guilford Central School is a better place with Nate in it. Our school is for everyone and I am grateful we can learn together. Mr. Gagnon, our school principal, said these words when asked about Nate, "Nate

is one of us. GCS would be a poorer place without him. He brings his silliness, positive energy, and joy to our school. We wouldn't be Guilford Central School without him." For more information about Down syndrome, come find me or go to www.ndss.org. If you see Nate in the hallway, be sure to say hi and give him a high five!



Nate and Crazy Sock Day



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Charm of March

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

A dingy Frigidaire is March.
Our contents we despise in March.

That arctic vortex stalks the heart.
You wonder if it dies in March.

Spring forward? Ha! we slide apart.
Smoke gets in your Ides of March.

We sling on chains to reach the car.
Come, roll around like dice in March.

Warm the seed bed by the hearth.
What faith we improvise in March!

A batter smirks: the fielders charge:
Fans wake to fantasize in March.

Shovel first, then rake the yard.
Green spears our surprise in March.

November's bones. December's
shards.

Beauty in disguise is March.

Sap boils above the flaming arch.
Thick as dreams we rise in March.

Fire Department Donates Solar Credits to Town

BY THE GUILFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUSTEES

The solar project at the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department has exceeded expectations and has generated close to \$4,000 of electricity credits in 2016. This not only covered the entire bill for the Fire Department, but also created a credit of over \$600 that will expire in February 2017 if not used. This is more than the Fire Department needs. Recognizing the Select Board and Town's strong support for the Fire Department, the Trustees of the Fire Department decided to share these credits, and in January and February the Town Offices and Garage will be included in the "Group Net Metering" account. This should substan-

tially reduce the Town's electric bills for these months.

The Fire Department will still have existing credits and will continue the generation of solar credits for future use.

Did you know that Guilford has truly gone renewable, and with the residential and commercial solar net-metered projects now installed, Guilford now produces more electricity than it uses? The residents and businesses in Guilford use about 2,900,000 kilowatt hours per year of electricity, and the solar projects generate over 3,000,000 kilowatt hours per year.



Nancy Detra

Editor's note:

Verandah's poem uses a middle eastern form called a Ghazal (pronounced "Guz-zle"). A traditional Ghazal consists of five to fifteen couplets, typically seven. A refrain (a repeated word or phrase) appears at the end of both lines of the first

couplet and at the end of the second line in each succeeding couplet. One or more words before the refrain are rhymes or partial rhymes. From: www.baymoon.com/~ariadne/form/ghazal.htm

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Guilford Center Stage Launches Its Third Season

BY NANCY DETRA

Guilford Center Stage launches its third year this Spring with a full season of events, including a square dance, two premiere productions, and a theater camp for children.

Square Dance: The Center Stage starts the season when it brings the Falltown String Band to its stage on Saturday, April 8th. The band will play and call for a lively square dance, following a long tradition of country dancing at the Broad Brook Grange hall. Marvin & Sue Shedd, who have been involved in all three of the Center Stage's productions, perform in the Bernardston-based band, with caller Bob Livingston. The dance will be a fund-raiser for the stage's theatrical endeavors.

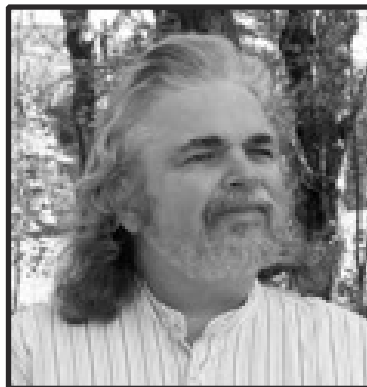
Our Enemy's Cup: Then, on May 5-7, the Center Stage will premiere another of Michael Nethercott's plays, this time a two-act piece. The Guilford playwright will again direct the production, which he describes as "a study of betrayal, loyalty and accountability set in occupied France during the Second

World War. In the wake of a compromised Resistance action, the citizens of a small town are forced to judge one of their own, and, in doing so, make a fateful decision."

Stage & Stream Camp: In August (14th-18th) the Center Stage will collaborate with the Guilford Free Library to offer a second summer of theater and outdoor activities for kids going into grades 5-9. The week-long camp will be offered free to Guilford children. The program features theater games at the Grange and stream and other activities at the Andrew Weeks Forest as well as in and around the library.

To Their Appointed End: Then, on October 6-8, the Stage will present a suite of one-act plays by Jean Stewart McLean, mother of Guilford Cen-

ter Stage's coproducer, Don McLean. This year is the centenary of the playwright's birth, which inspired the idea to premiere these four short plays under the title of one of the short works. The suite will start with a drama, then two plays based on the playwright's upbringing in a church family, one of which is a light comedy. The finale is a fast-paced comedy in the Noel Coward vein. The plan is to involve lots of community actors.



Michael Nethercott



Jean Stewart McLean

Shirley Squire's Challenge

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

Guilford's own Shirley Squires (also known as The Nativity Lady) is celebrating 25 years as a volunteer and fundraiser for the Aids Project. To date, she has raised over \$300,000 dollars (this is the right amount of zeros) for the Aids Project. To cel-

ebate her 25th anniversary, she has set a goal to raise \$25,000 during 2017. It may seem a daunting goal but knowing Shirley, she is up to it.

The Aids Walk is May 20. Shirley will be sending out requests to previous donors but would like to reach others who

would like to help her celebrate her 25th Anniversary.

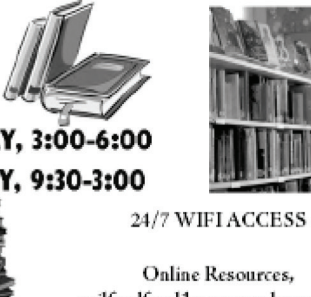
Donations may be sent to Shirley Squires, 1890 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, VT 05301. If you would like further information, please contact Shirley at 802-254-2696.

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Friends of Music's Upcoming Concerts

BY JOY WALLENS-PENFORD

Midwinter Concert - February 25: Celtic Music, Shakespeare Songs & Warming Soup:

Now in its 51st concert season, Friends of Music at Guilford invites the public to its Midwinter Musicales on Saturday, February 25, at Guilford Community Church. A pre-concert meal at 6:00 p.m. will be followed at 7:00 by "Music for a Winter's Night" with the Heart Soul Voice Ensemble from Boston; a dessert reception caps the festivities.

Heart Soul Voice, founded in 2011, is comprised of Janna Maria Fröhlich, voice, harp, and guitar; and Joy Grimes, violin. Their diverse

Early Music forms; and Contemporary Instrumentals & Ballads in Jazz & Folk styles, including a song developed with audience input.

Janna earned a Master's in Early Music Performance from Sarah Lawrence in 1984 and another master's degree in Expressive Arts Therapy at Lesley University. Joy Grimes, who holds both a master's and a doctorate in viola performance from Boston University, She currently performs on both modern and period instruments with many ensembles and orchestras.

General admission is \$12 per person and includes the pre-concert supper and reception; patron tickets are \$25.

For further information, please contact the Friends of Music office at (802) 254-3600 or email office@fomag.org. Women in Music Celebration April 23: A Gala Tribute to Billie Holiday

Friends of Music at Guilford's annual fundraising gala, usually set in a private area home, has featured a variety of programs showcasing work by women composers from across the centuries. Pianist Ken Olsson will accompany vocalist Samirah Evans in a Centennial-plus-One Salute to Billie Holiday on Sunday, April 23.

From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., gala attendees are treated to a festive and filling buffet

of hearty hors d'oeuvres, salads, fruit and cheese, as well as wine and other beverages. The 7:00 performance is followed by desserts donated by area restaurants and specialty bakers. A



program will include Traditional & Original Celtic Music; a Shakespeare Set celebrating The Bard of Avon in

Silent Auction of 2-for-1 tickets to regional concerts, plays and cinema, plus a few special items and gift certificates, is always a popular addition to the evening; attendees get some real entertainment bargains while supporting FOMAG's current season of events.

A 14-year veteran of the New Orleans Jazz Festival, Samirah relocated to Brattleboro after Katrina. She has toured Europe, Asia, and both North and South America as a headliner, and shared stages with a multitude of legendary artists from B.B. King and James Brown to New Orleans'

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Sweet Pond Returns!

BY LINDA HECKER

Sweet Pond will be restored in summer, 2017. That's the good news from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (FPR). The pond was drained in spring of 2011 when engineers from FPR deemed the existing dam structurally weak and in danger of flooding downstream homes and properties if it gave way in heavy rains. This was right before Tropical Storm Irene, so it was probably a good call.

In 2016 we learned that the Vermont legislature funded the dam restoration project, largely thanks to the untiring efforts of our representative, Mike Hebert.

We also received a timetable of events: The engineering firm of Du-bois and King of Randolph, Vermont was selected by competitive

bid to prepare design and construction documents for the dam reconstruction project. This year was devoted to completing the extensive set of State and Federal permits needed to do the work.

-Early 2017: Put project out for bid

-June – September 2017: Execute construction

-Fall 2017: Refill the pond!

In November of 2016 Ethan Phelps of FPR confirmed that the project is proceeding according to schedule. The state had asked citizens for suggestions about ways to improve the recreational facilities and is contributing \$30,000 for these projects. This is in addition to the \$7000 raised by our local Save Sweet Pond Fund. The state's Stewardship Team recommended improving the boat launch with better parking and a universally-accessible trail to the

water's edge, and relocating the foot bridge to keep the trail intact (dam permitting will no longer allow the bridge to remain on top of the dam). They also intend to install one or two benches and possibly a picnic table somewhere along the trail.

If you have more suggestions, you can contact members of the Save Sweet Pond Steering Committee, which includes Richard Wizansky, Katie Buckley, Verandah Porche, Susan James, Richard Austin, and Linda Hecker (lrhecker47@gmail.com)

from p14

own Queen of Soul, Irma Thomas. Ken Olsson is a singer, choral and orchestral conductor, music director, pianist, organist, and accompanist for concerts and recitals in the Northeast. He has performed in several of these capacities for Friends of Music, including as accompanist for the Edith Piaf tribute two years ago.



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Head Lice: Not Just a Back to School Occurrence

BY MARIANNE LAWRENCE

After my daughter returned from a 10 day camp in Burlington, I heard the wonderful stories of her new friends, the things they did and the memories they made. Two weeks after her return, she began to complain of an itchy head. One morning, she stuck her finger in my face and said "Mom, what's this?" With a start, I realized what was on her finger was a head louse. After confirming it with a Google search and inspecting my daughter's head, I realized that not only did she return from camp with fond memories, she returned from camp with many little friends. By the time I recognized the itching being as a result of those tiny little creatures, she had a full blown case of head lice.

I shampooed her with the worst chemical shampoo available and combed through her hair religiously. Meanwhile, I realized that the hardest thing of all was to call all the people she had been in contact with over the last 3 weeks and tell them the news. "Uh, I am sorry to tell you that my daughter had head lice when she baby sat for you last week." It wasn't easy. It was terrifying, it was humiliating, it was uncomfortable. I never want to do it again. I spent hours over the next weeks, combing thru her hair in the sun on the deck and cleaning the house.

The other more serious issue that comes with head lice is the stigma attached to it. For centuries, head lice has been thought of as a health issue associated with the poor and dirty. That's not

true: Everyone is susceptible to head lice infestation. The most effective way to stop the spread of head lice is COMMUNICATION. When a case of head lice is identified, the first thing to do is tell everyone who has been in contact with the affected person. Stopping any more transmission is the only way to prevent more cases. Then, effective safe treatments can be applied.

I am now a Shepherd Method certified technician with Help For Lice. I am eager to teach individuals what to look for when they think they see head lice. I am willing to go anywhere to help identify possible outbreaks, able to guide people with head lice issues. I am available to talk with parent groups, school boards, civic groups and any groups that would like more information and support on head lice.

THE FACTS OF LICE

They don't fly or jump. they can only live on the human body and can't survive for more than 24 hours off the body. They pass through head to head contact.

Lice can actually

"hold their breath" which is why they survive submersion.

They don't discriminate. They like any type of hair, clean or dirty (they do prefer clean as it is easier to travel on). They do not do well on African American hair due to it's oval shape (their six claws can't hold onto the hair).

Lice prefer clean hair (just as you prefer a plowed driveway in the winter). Marianne Lawrence 802-579-1071 for information, education or just consultation.



Our museum may be closed for the winter,
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Selectboard Candidates

BY NATHANAEL MATTHIESEN

My name is Nathanael Matthiesen and I am running for a two-year Selectboard position in Guilford. I believe that I have the skills, motivation, and experience to help Guilford move into the future while also maintaining our unique, rural community and history.

I have been involved with community since I was in high school, as one of the founding members of independent radio station Radio Free Brattleboro in the 1990s, and into local political issues over the years. I am a 1999 BUHS graduate. My partner Tadj and I are entering our third season of running a small commercial vegetable farm on Bullock Road; I strongly believe in the values associated with small-scale agriculture—land stewardship, environmental sustainability, and community—which are an integral part of the 2015-2020 Guilford Town Plan.

I am levelheaded, patient, and will listen to the needs of our community. I would greatly appreciate your support.

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

I am seeking a three-year term on the Selectboard. Guilford's neighborly values and diverse, positive ideas for building our community inspire me to serve now. I'm on the Cemetery Commission, the Save Sweet Pond Committee, and volunteer at the Food Pantry. I moved here in 1968, after riots following Martin Luther King's assassination. I've loved raising a family in our peaceful, close-knit community. I am a poet, teacher, and a writing partner, helping people to explore and tell their stories. Shedding Light on the Working Forest, my collaborative project with a painter and loggers, was recently exhibited at the Vermont Supreme Court. Broad Brook Anthology, a play drawn from voices of Guilford's elders, was featured at the Town's 250th anniversary celebration. Since the 1980s, I've taught Guilford children to express themselves in poetry. I believe that civic conversation, taking time to listen, build trust, test ideas, choose a course, and collaborate, should also be a pleasure.

BY RICHARD WIZANSKY

I am running for a two-year term on the Selectboard. I've lived in Guilford for 49 years and have always believed there is no better place on earth.

Before semi-retiring, I taught English and writing at Greenfield Community College and was Associate Vice President at The Student Conservation Association, a national nonprofit. I am treasurer of the Guilford Free Library and a trustee of the Governor's Institutes of Vermont.

Guilford is in an exciting time, full of energy and community building. I believe my thinking, budgeting, and strategic planning skills will be useful on the board in areas such as recycling, capital budget planning, and supporting the current town plan which focuses on creating a community where all our residents can thrive, raise their families, and sustain themselves.

I would be honored to have your vote to work together to make Guilford an even more beautiful, friendly, and economically successful town.

Cut This Out and Save It!

Articles for the *Gazette* are due the 1st of January, April, July and October for publication the following month. Always. Every Year.

Mailing takes place the second Friday of February, May, August and November. Calendar items should be submitted accordingly.

To submit an article or photo for the May issue of the *Gazette*, please send it to gazette@guilfordfree.org by April 1st.



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Town Meeting Day - March 7th

Pre-Town Meeting

BY SHEILA MORSE

Broad Brook Grange will hold Guilford's PRE-TOWN MEETING on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Grange hall. This is an opportunity for Guilford residents to hear in some detail about issues that will be raised at the Town Meeting and to become acquainted with candidates for public office.

Anyone running for Town or School District office this year should attend the meeting; those who do will be given the opportunity to speak to the voters there.

Town Auditor

BY NEIL QUINN

I am running for another three-year term as Town Auditor, a position I have held since 1987! In Guilford the Town Auditors now do very little actual auditing. Our job is mostly putting together the Town Report; gathering the material, editing and formatting, preparing it all for the printer. I have a background in printing design, and I'm familiar with the InDesign program.

I've lived on Sweet Pond Road since 1964. When not auditing I stay busy with large and small carpentry projects, and trying to keep my steep, quarter-mile-long driveway in good shape.

School Board Candidate

BY BETH BRISTOL

My name is Beth Bristol and I am running for a 1-year term on the Guilford Town School Board. I have been a member of the board for 3 years now and find it to be an extremely rewarding, and equally challenging, position. Most recently, I have sat on the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Act 46 Study Committee, through which I have become passionate about advocating for the sustainability and uniqueness of our school—and am eager to see this process to resolution. I have two daughters in the early elementary grades and feel very strongly about being an advocate for education. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with the talented members of our school community.

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October-

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The Zoll Monitor Raffle Winners:

November - Abigail Tracy

December - Tim Johnson

It's not too late to buy a raffle ticket! If you buy one before March 14th, 2017 your ticket will be included in the next 10 drawings! Drawings are the second Tuesday of the month.



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Community Calendar

19

FEBRUARY

17 MOVIE: A MUSICAL PART 2

1 PM (free) Guilford Community Church sponsored by Guilford Free Library.

23 PRE-TOWN MEETING

7 PM Broad Brook Grange. Information Town Office 254-6857

25 FOMAG-MUSIC FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT

5, 6, & 7 PM Guilford Community Church (\$12). Meal begins at 6, music at 7. Information 254-3600

MARCH

4 SUGAR ON SNOW SUPPER

1 PM, Broad Brook Grange, (Adults \$10; kids 12 & under \$5; family max \$25) information 254-3600

7 TOWN MEETING

10 AM Guilford Central School. Australian Ballot 10 AM – 7 PM

17 MOVIE: A COMEDY

1 PM (free) Guilford Community Church sponsored by Guilford Free Library.

21 CRAZY SOCK DAY

ALL DAY Guilford Central School and your home. Information 254-2271

APRIL

8 SQUARE DANCE WITH THE FALLTOWN STRING BAND

7 PM Broad Brook Grange (Adults \$10; kids 12 & under \$5; family max \$25) Information 257-1961

SUGAR ON SNOW SUPPER

15 5 & 6:30 PM, Guilford Fire Station, (Adults \$12, Children (6 to 12) \$5, Five and under \$2) information 254-6841

21 MOVIE: A COMEDY PART 2

1 PM (free) Guilford Community Church sponsored by Guilford Free Library.

23 FOMAG-A GALA TRIBUTE TO BILLIE HOLIDAY

6 PM Guilford Private Home (\$35). Meal begins at 6, music at 7. Information and invitation 254-3600

MAY

5 OUR ENEMY'S CUP

7:30 PM Guilford Center Stage, Grange (\$10). Information 257-1961

6 OUR ENEMY'S CUP

7:30 PM Guilford Center Stage, Grange (\$10). Information 257-1961

7 OUR ENEMY'S CUP

2 PM Guilford Center Stage, Grange (\$10). Information 257-1961

8 GREEN UP DAY

7 AM - 1 PM. Get supplies at the Broad Brook Grange.

14 MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH,

7AM - 1 PM. Broad Brook Grange. No reservations necessary. \$12-adults; \$10-seniors, \$5 ages 2-12. Kids under two are free.

ONGOING

Tuesdays:

•STORYTIME- 11 AM Library. Cathi Wilken or Laura Lawson Tucker presents a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings. No charge. Information: 254-6545

3rd Wednesday of the month:

•TALK ABOUT BOOKS, 6:30 PM, library. Books are available to borrow from the library. No charge.

Every Thursday:

•FOOD PANTRY 5-6 PM. Broad Brook Grange

Town of Guilford Meeting Schedule

Name of Meeting	Meeting Day(s)	Time	Location	Contact
Selectboard	2nd and 4th Mondays	6:30 PM	Town Office	www.guilfordvt.net
Planning Commission	3rd Mondays	7:00 PM	Town Office	www.guilfordvt.net
Conservation Commission	3rd Thursdays	5:00 PM	Town Office	www.guilfordvt.net
Cemetery Commission	3rd Thursdays	5:30 PM	Town Office	www.guilfordvt.net
Recreation Commission	2nd Thursday	6:30 PM	Town Office	contact@guilfordrecreation.org
School Board	1st and 3rd Mondays	6:30 PM	School	www.guilfordvt.net
Fire Department Trustees	1st Mondays	6:30 PM	Fire Station	254-4413
Firefighter's Meeting and Drills	Every Tuesday	6:30 PM	Fire Station	254-4413
Fire Department Auxiliary	1st Thursdays	6:30 PM	Fire Station	gfdaux@yahoo.com; 254-4413
Guilford Cares	2nd Wednesdays	6:00 PM	Town Office	gcares@comcast.net
Guilford Pitstoppers	1st Mondays	7:00 PM	GCC	pitstoppers@comcast.net
Library Trustees	3rd Mondays	6:30 PM	Library	guilfordfreelibrary@wordpress.com
Historical Society	TBA	6:30 PM	Town Office	www.guilfordhistorical.org
Broad Brook Grange	1st Thursdays	7:00 PM	Grange Hall	
Guilford Gazette	2nd Thursdays	9:00 AM	Country Store	gazette@guilfordfree.org

Support Your Source of
Community News



Donate Money to
the Guilford Gazette

ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the *Gazette* provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the *Gazette* Box at the library or the school, or mail it to *The Guilford Gazette* c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301. You may also email us at: gazette@guilfordfree.org

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In This Issue...

Guilford's Grange Hall	p.1, 3
Help the Gazette	p.2
Thinking About Summer	p.3
Act 46 - Why It Matters	p.4, 5
Act 46 - Another Opinion	p.5, 6
DCF Books/ New Teacher	p.7
Mr. Damon/ Ms. Quimby	p.8
GCS Primary News	p.9
Upper Grade News	p.10
Crazy Sock Day	p.11
Fire Dept Donates Solar Credits/ Charm of March	p.12
Guilford Center Stage/ Shirley Squires Challenge	p.13
Friends of Music Events	p.14, 15
Sweet Pond Returns	p.15
Head Lice	p.16
Selectboard Candidates	p.17
Pre Town Meeting/ Auditor/ School Board Candidate	p.18
Community Calendar	p.19



Puddles - Nancy Detra

